

JANEEN SOLLMAN
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 15



OREGON STATE SENATE

2/24/2026
RE: Senate Bill 1517

Secretary Rutledge,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a vote explanation on SB 1517.

Oregon's recreation and outdoor industry is a cornerstone of our economy. It supports jobs in every corner of the state, draws visitors, sustains rural communities, and is a defining part of what makes Oregon a place people want to live, work, and invest. Oregon's recreation economy is significant and the insurance pressures facing the industry including small outdoor businesses are genuine. I take those realities seriously.

It is precisely because I care about the long-term health of Oregon's recreation economy that I could not support this bill as written. A thriving recreation economy depends not only on reducing operator liability, but on maintaining public trust and a stable insurance market.

Oregon is already an outlier among states in how insurers view its liability environment, contributing to sky-high premiums and reduced coverage. SB 1517 would worsen this dynamic. Its overly broad exceptions undermine the enforceability of liability releases. No other state approaches this issue with exceptions so expansive they swallow the rule. Unusual waiver legislation is likely to deepen Oregon's unfavorable reputation with insurers rather than improve it.

The future of Oregon's outdoor recreation economy, and conservation-focused land stewardship programs, depends on comprehensive, well-crafted recreation liability waiver reform. I remain committed to that goal. As a sponsor of SB 1593, that bill would have more cleanly allowed for enforceability of releases, was in line with other western states, and was unanimously supported by Oregon's recreation industry, which is made up of smaller, family-owned businesses.

SB 1517 undermines the predictability the insurance market needs to bring down rates and expand coverage for Oregon's outdoor businesses. For these reasons, I voted no on SB 1517.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janeen Sollman".

Senator Janeen Sollman
Senate District 15

900 Court St. NE., Salem, OR 97301- 503-986-1715
sen.janeensollman@oregonlegislature.gov